GERMAN DEFIANT ON BOOK CHANGES

Editor of Stern Vows to Run Original Manchester Text

By PHILIP SHABECOFF
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BONN, Dec. 23 — The editor-in-chief of West Germany's illustrated magazine Stern said today he would ignore demands by Look magazine and begin serializing the original text of "The Death of a President" Jan. 15.

Henri Nannen, the editor, said by telephone that Look told him in a message yesterday that it was sending Stern revised proofs of the book about the assassination of President Kennedy.

He said the message asserted that it was "imperative" that only the revised version be published and demanded that the original proofs of the book by William Manchester be destroyed.

Mr. Nannen added that he understood Look was threatening legal action to prevent Stern from publishing the controversial book.

Look agreed to delete portions of the text after Mrs. John F. Kennedy objected to the original version on the ground that it contained references that related to the personal life of herself or her children.

Deleted Passages

Mr. Nannen said that as far as he knew the passages deleted by Look concerned relations between the Kennedy family and President Johnson.

"Perhaps this will not be very pleasant for the political career of Robert Kennedy, but that cannot keep us from printing the historical record," he declared.

"No passage in the book goes into the personal life of Mrs. Kennedy, but there are passages which are not very friendly to Johnson. I never read such a compelling book.

"If it hurt Mrs. Kennedy in any way I would naturally stop publication immediately. But I am convinced it is politics — Bobby's career — [that caused the objections to the book] and that is not our concern."

Mr. Nannen complained that Stern was being made the scapegoat in the controversy over publication of the original manuscript of "The Death of a President."

He said the Danish newspaper Berlingske Tidende, which he said was planning to publish the full text, had also received a warning telegram from Look.

He noted that the Look telegram also asked that no advertising that used pictures of living members of the Kennedy family be distributed.

Mr. Nannen said that he had first looked at the original text of Mr. Manchester's book in London and had paid $72,000 for the serialization rights, which he believes is the highest sum ever paid for a book by a German magazine.